

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** November 21, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on November 17, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Unilateral Administrative Order Issued (Oil Releases to Ohio River), Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company, Mingo Junction, Ohio**

On November 8, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 Superfund Division Director issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company (WPSC) under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Amendments of 1990, directing them to undertake measures to abate releases of oil from two outfalls to the Ohio River at its Mingo Junction, Ohio facility. WPSC operates an iron and steel production complex and uses various oils for fuel, machine lubrication, steel rolling and cutting, and other applications. Historic oil offloading and transfer practices have created a plume of oil in the soils beneath the facility, which would migrate to a sewer system during heavy precipitation. The UAO requires WPSC to develop a work plan that provides for verifying the sources of the oil discharges at Outfalls 007 and 008; removing oil and oil-contaminated sediments associated with the discharge at 008; identifying, evaluating and implementing technologies that will halt future discharges to Outfalls 007 and 008; and, to provide for continuous temporary containment and recovery of oil.

In July 1999, the Emergency Response Branch (ERB) mobilized a response team to the facility after a release of fuel oil from

Outfall 008. A boom system was installed in the area of the outfall. In April 2000, ERB remobilized to the facility to address a release of oil from Outfall 007, located downstream from 008 and adjacent to the hot strip mill. U.S. EPA continues to monitor this outfall, and there has been continued release of recoverable oil or sheen from this outfall.

Contact: Michael Berman (312-886-6837)

**Open House (Dredging Progress), Fox River NRDA/PCB Releases Site, Green Bay, Wisconsin**

On October 12, 2000, U.S. EPA hosted an open house to discuss the progress of dredging at the Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57 hot spot on the Fox River, Green Bay, Wisconsin. U.S. EPA, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Ft. James Corp. staff showed the 30 visitors jars of sediment and water collected during various stages of dredging and treatment and presented an overview of the dredging project and overall cleanup effort.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)  
 Samuel Borries (312-353-2886)  
 James Hahnenberg (312-353-4213)

**Briefing (Water Line Installation), Lammers Barrel Factory Site, Beaver Creek, Ohio**

U.S. EPA staff briefed residents and City officials in Beaver Creek, Ohio, regarding logistics for the installation of a new water main. The water main is necessary because of contamination in residential wells resulting from the nearby Lammers Barrel Factory removal site. Once the water line installation is complete, U.S. EPA will turn its attention to the cleanup of site soils and ground water.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)  
 Rosita Clarke-Moreno (312-886-7251)

**Interviews and Meetings (Phytocap Consideration), Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio**

On October 24-26, 2000, U.S. EPA conducted individual interviews with community members interested in the cleanup of the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL). U.S. EPA met with residents, local officials, business owners, and the media to discuss the possibility of changing the design of the landfill cap. The potential new design, called a "phytocap," involves the planting

of specific trees that take up large amounts of water through their roots. Once U.S. EPA receives a formal written proposal from the potentially responsible parties, it will decide whether to seriously consider a phytocap remedy for IEL. U.S. EPA also gave a presentation at the local Lion's Club monthly meeting. Feedback from the interviews and Lion's Club meeting will be used to revise the community involvement plan for the site.

Contacts: Denise Battaglia (312-886-9859)  
Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

**Meeting (Discuss Roles on Site), Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site, Ashland, Wisconsin**

On November 13, 2000, representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Mark Gordon from the Madison Office, Jamie Dunn from the Spooner Office, and John Robinson from the Rhinelander Office, traveled to Chicago to meet with Doug Ballotti, Wendy Carney, Joe Dufficy, Briana Bill, Jon Peterson, and Reiniero Rivera from U.S. EPA Region 5. The purpose of the meeting was generally for the WDNR to brief U.S. EPA on their activities at the site to date and for the two agencies to discuss how work would proceed on the site from this point forward, considering that the site is expected to be proposed for the Superfund National Priorities List.

WDNR wants concurrence on the investigations and potentially responsible party (PRP) determinations that have been made to date. The WDNR expressed willingness to conduct additional sampling or provide other information in order to obtain U.S. EPA's concurrence.

Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

**Outreach, Western Mineral Products Site, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

From October 24-28, 2000, Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) participated in outreach activities related to the Western Minerals Processing Site in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Western Minerals site was a facility that received asbestos containing vermiculite from mines in Libby, Montana. The CICs coordinated the effort to notify residents of completed property inspections. An open house was coordinated with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health to educate the public about what the potential contaminants look like.

Contacts: Stuart Hill (312-886-0689)  
Jennifer Ostermeier (312-353-0618)

Cheryl Allen (312-353-6196)  
Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)

**Outreach, Tremont City Landfill Aka North San Ldfl Site,  
Columbus, Ohio**

On October 16, 2000, U.S. EPA met with an environmental group in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss progress in the investigation of the Tremont City Landfill Aka North San Ldfl site, Tremont City, Ohio. U.S. EPA told Citizens for Water that the preliminary results show low levels of contamination at the site, which includes a closed landfill, barrel fill, and waste transfer facility. U.S. EPA, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and the U.S. Geological Survey will conduct a second round of tests in November and December 2000.

Contacts: Denise Battaglia (312-886-9859)  
John O'Grady (312-886-1477)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) Meeting, Duluth,  
Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin**

On October 31, 2000, the Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) held its latest meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. The Western Lake Superior PAC is comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local governments, as well as industry and other response-oriented organizations. The Western Lake Superior PAC meets quarterly to discuss response organization and planning for the inland and coastal zones along Lake Superior's western shoreline. The PAC meeting agenda included updates from the U.S. Coast Guard on the status of the industry-led PREP exercise planned at Murphy Oil in Duluth for August 2001. In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator briefed PAC members on the Thunder Bay REET meeting they attended in conjunction with Environment Canada in late September. The REET meeting provided the opportunity for the various State and Federal environmental organizations to interact and exchange ideas and resources with their Canadian counterpart agencies.

The PAC meeting also included the unveiling of the final version of the Western Lake Superior Inland Sensitivity Atlas on CD. The Sensitivity Atlas covers resources and sensitive areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin adjacent to Lake Superior. The Atlas was prepared as part of U.S. EPA's Oil Planning and Response Section's cooperative effort with multiple agencies in the Inland

Waterways Spill Response Mapping Project. Copies of the recently finalized CD were handed out to all PAC members present.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

**OCEPP Staff Attends, Annual Region 5 SERC Conference, Madison, Wisconsin**

On November 15 and 16, 2000, Mark Horwitz, Chief, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), and his staff attended the Annual Region 5 State Emergency Response Commission Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. This conference provides a forum for sharing accomplishments between the States and between the States and U.S. EPA. In addition to annual accomplishments, State success stories were shared regarding new processes for data collection and processing, emergency planning and enforcement and fees. In addition, OCEPP staff made presentations regarding new compliance and enforcement projects being considered and also provided updates regarding current projects.

Contact: Mark Horwitz (312/353-9045)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Letters of Appreciation**

On November 8, 2000, Elaine Davies, Acting Director of the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, sent individual letters of appreciation to Jackie Dillard, John O'Grady, and Peggy Schwebke for their help and facilitation at the recent national Superfund Focus Forum that was held in Chicago. In part the letters stated, "Your contribution to our meeting was outstanding, and we received favorable contributions from the participants."

Contact: Bill Muno (312-886-7578)

**Invitation/Recognition Letter, Burgess Battery Site, Freeport, Illinois**

The following is part of a November 9, 2000, letter from Mayor James L. Gitz, City of Freeport, Illinois, to Francis X. Lyons, Regional Administrator, "The Burgess Battery site was originally a superfund site under the jurisdiction of USEPA. Within the last year, USEPA agreed to transfer jurisdiction to IEPA for enrollment in its voluntary remediation program. This unique

move by your agency has allowed Freeport the opportunity to enter into what we consider to be one of the most exciting undertakings in recent history. The assistance which we have received from USEPA, specifically Deb Orr, has been of refreshing and unprecedented help to the City and we sincerely hope that you are able to join us for this ceremony so that we are able to properly recognize the efforts of your office. This project is not only novel, but of regional significance."

The City's Brownfield consultant is preparing visual site mock-ups of the trail head and boat launch facility that will be located on the site. The invitation is for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers